Violence and sexual abuse in schools

2849. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases of violence and sexual abuse have been noticed in schools recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Stray incidents of violence and sexual abuse of students in schools have been reported in the media education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. Details of violence and sexual abuse in schools are not centrally maintained in this Ministry.

(c) Central Government issues advisories from time to time to States/UTs to ensure safety of students. The following advisories, *inter alia,* have been issued:

(i) Advisory dated 8.8.2006 for issue of appropriate guidelines to ensure safety of girls in schools against sexual abuse.

(ii) Advisory dated 17.12.2007 for prohibiting corporal punishment in schools.

Free education to poor muslims

2850. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of the Union Government to provide free education for poor muslim minority students upto the last standard of education *i.e.* M.A./M, Sc./M. Com./Ph.D., etc. in all education institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the above proposal would be helpful to minority community students in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. For the educational advancement of children from poor minority communities including Muslims, Government of India through the Ministry of Minority Affairs has instituted (a) Merit-cum means scholarship for professional & Technical courses, (b) Pre-matric scholarship and (c) Post matric scholarship for minority communities.

Women Reservation Bill

2851. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha has publicly announced supporting the Women Reservation Bill in case it is brought forth;